Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01837 031903Z ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /054 W

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R 031722Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2566 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAID, WFS

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

- 1. FAO DOCUMENT ON GRAIN RESERVES IS IN PROCESS OF PREPARATION BY FAO'S COMMODITY DIVISION. DOCUMENT IS BEING PREPARED FOR THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (WFS) AT REQUEST OF SOME MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING U.S., WHO QUESTIONED FIGURE OF 16 PERCENT AS NEEDED SAFE LEVEL OF FOOD RESERVES WITH RELATION TO GRAIN CONSUMPTION. FAO PAPER REVIEWS BASIS FOR USE OF THIS PERCENTAGE IN DOCUMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN 1974. DOCUMENT THEN REVIEWS THREE OR FOUR OTHER STUDIES ON THIS ISSUE SINCE THEN AND CONCLUDES THAT 16 PERCENT FIGURE IS VALID AND BEST JUDGMENT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. GIST OF REMARKS OF FAO ECONOMIST WORKING ON THIS ISSUE WAS THAT COUNTRIES WHO QUESTIONED THIS FIGURE SHOULD EITHER ACCEPT 16 PERCENT AS WORKING LEVEL FOR RESE RVE STOCK OR ELSE BE PREPARED TO ARGUE AND PROVE A BETTER FIGURE.
- 2. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT
 THE FAO'S FOOD INFORMATION NO. 1 1977 OF JANUARY
 18 FORECASTS TOTAL CARRYOVER OF CEREALS FOR 1977 AS A PERCENTAGE
 OF CONSUMPTION AT EXACTLY 16 PERCENT. FAO ECONOMIST
 SAYS FEBRUARY'S RELEASE WILL BE ABOUT THE SAME,
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BUT BY MARCH THEY EXPECT TO SHOW INCREASED WHEAT STOCKS FROM THE 1976 59 MILLION-TON FIGURE SO THAT WORLD STOCKS WILL ACTUALLY BE ESTIMATED AT THIS 16 PERCENT LEVEL. ALSO ENCOURAGING FROM WORLD FOOD SECURITY POINT OF VIEW IS THAT STOCKS IN DEVELOPING IMPORTER COUNTRIES ARE UP EVEN THOUGH THERE STILL EXISTS AN IMBALANCE BETWEEN LOCATION OF STOCKS AND CONSUMPTION. ONLY DEVELOPED COUNTRY IMPORTERS DID NOT INCREASE STOCKS IN 1976.

3.	FAO	DOO	CUME	ENTA	HON	FOR	WFS	COM	MITTI	EE IS	EXP	ECTED	TO
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, SUPPLIES, GRAINS, COMMITTEES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 03-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME01837
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770040-0051 Format: TEL

From: ROME

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770276/aaaacpke.tel

Line Count: 65 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: c8c532cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3417119 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

TAGS: EAID, FAO, WFS

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c8c532cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009